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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): CRE-
ABILIS THERAPEUTICS S.R.L. [IT/IT]; BioIndustry
Park, Via Ribes, 5, I-10010 Colletterto Giacosa (IT).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): BUSSOLINO,
Federico [IT/IT]; Via Torricelli, 15, I-10129 Torino (IT).
MARCHIO, Serena [IT/IT]; Via Giordano Bruno, 85,
I-10134 Torino (IT).
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(54) Title: A NOVEL MECHANISM FOR HIV-1 ENTRY INTO HOST CELLS AND PEPTIDES INHIBITING THIS MECHANISM

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to the finding that TAT interacts with gp120 at the cell surface and enhances HIV-1 entry into host cells. This invention also discloses modulators of this interaction, particularly peptides that mimic the region of gp120 involved in this interaction. These peptides interfere with TAT-mediated enhancement of infection regardless of virus strain, and are therefore suitable for the development in general of broad-range drugs against AIDS and other infectious diseases induced by HIV-1 related pathogens, and specifically for a class of chemicals active in the reduction or abrogation of virus and infectivity spreading.



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